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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO. [REDACTED]

COUNTRY Albania

DATE DISTR. 22 Dec. 1949

SUBJECT Miscellaneous Information on Albania

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ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

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DATE OF INFO. [REDACTED]

25X1A

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1X

1. On 29 November 1949 the Albanian Government is said to have declared an amnesty and to have released Pandit Kristo, who had been convicted of Titoism along with Koci Xoxe.
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2. [REDACTED] reported that in October 1949 the Albanian Government uncovered a wide-spread anti-governmental plot involving 400 persons, including a colonel from Shkoder; all have been imprisoned and will be tried soon.
3. Towards the end of November 1949, a plot involving 20 persons was reportedly discovered in Vlone; these persons are said to have been co-operating with nationalist guerrillas for the purpose of liberating imprisoned anti-Communists. So far, 10 have been condemned to death, while others are being imprisoned. The leader of the plot is said to be a certain Maliq, of Ducat.
4. It was also reported that frequent clashes take place between Yugoslav and Albanian troops along the northern frontier especially in the Prizren and Tropoje areas.
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5. [REDACTED] three nationalists, including Mark Shliaku, were shot in Shkoder during the month of November. In addition, informants stated that two nationalists leaders, who are said to have parachuted into the Mirdite area, are heading an active and large resistance movement.
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6. [REDACTED] reported that, on 10 October 1949, 6,000 Greek guerrillas embarked at Durres on one Soviet and one Polish vessel; their destination was believed to be Bulgaria. Others of the [REDACTED] confirmed this, adding that this may have been the reason for the sudden change of point of embarkation (from Durres to Vlone) for the Italian repatriates.
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7. [REDACTED] reported that not only are there no artillery pieces presently located on Cape Linguetta, but have indicated that batteries which had previously been located there, have recently been moved. The garrisoning

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This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25X1A
[REDACTED]

- 2 -

of Karaburun Peninsula is carried out by two platoons; one is based near the northern extremity, where two stone constructions are located, while the other platoon is located at a point just below the entrance to Vlone Bay, between Capo Gallovecit and Cape San Giovanni, where there are three other stone constructions. In the immediate vicinity there are said to be old cement emplacements for automatic arms or artillery, which are now dismantled.

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- 25X1X 8. The cavern on Karaburun Peninsula reportedly measures 12 meters in height and 7 meters in width. [REDACTED] do not believe that the cavern is very deep, as they have observed that the sea breaks at the entrance; they therefore contend that, as it presently stands, the cavern could not be used by naval units. [REDACTED] the Albanians intend to use the cavern as a refuge for their MAS boats; this report, however, is based on rumors. 25X1X
9. [REDACTED] also reported a battery of three pieces, emplaced at a distance of 300 meters apart, and located northeast of the old Kanina fortress. The artillery is reportedly not very well camouflaged and easily visible through field glasses. [REDACTED] added that another battery is located inside the Kanina fortress, which on the outside appears to be ungarrisoned and in a state of ruin. 25X1X
10. [REDACTED] reported that four batteries, consisting of four pieces each of 122 mm (Soviet manufacture), are located on the western side of Saseno Island. In addition, there are said to be four AA batteries (in this connection one of the [REDACTED] has stated that the AA artillery on the island is of 20 mm caliber). 25X1X
11. [REDACTED] generally excluded the existence of grottoes or shelters of any kind for naval vessels anywhere on the eastern coast of Saseno Island; some of the Italian repatriates who had been working in the Vlone area during the past year stated that they had never heard the detonation of explosives from the island which might have indicated that construction work was in progress. 25X1X
12. [REDACTED] stated that the small port of the island, in Tapraca Bay, is in very poor condition; the quays which had been blown up during the war, have not been rebuilt. Old cement emplacements around the port are dismantled and in a state of abandonment. In the port there is a small armed tug. With respect to the garrisoning of the island, [REDACTED] reported that one 3/4-ton Dodge truck had been observed loaded with soldiers, and that it was believed that 400 Albanian soldiers were based on the island, in addition to 4 or 5 Soviet officers, who practically controlled everything. 25X1X
13. With regard to the port of Vlone, [REDACTED] described the single serviceable quay as being composed of three sections of the following dimensions from the head:
- a. First section: 100 meters in length, 12 meters in width, with a bottom of 7.50 meters at the head, 620 meters on the two sides, and 4.50 meters at the end of the section.
 - b. Second section: 80 meters in length 9 meters in width.
 - c. Third section: 120 meters in length, 6 meters in width.
- 25X1X [REDACTED] added that during the entire time that the Italian vessel was anchored in Vlone, no other motor or sailing vessel was in or entered port.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25X1A

- 3 -

25X1X

14. [REDACTED] two additional classes had been called up to arms during the past month, including one or two who had not had military service during the last 11 levies. Considerable movement of soldiers was noted, with more than 3,000 engaged in intensive training activity. The most striking external aspect was the poor condition of the uniforms of all military units, including those of the police. Youths of from 15 years of age to levy age are reportedly obliged to take pre-military instruction on all the holidays of the year.

15. With respect to the number of Soviets in Albania, 25X1X [REDACTED] reported that there were no more than 3,000 men, consisting of military personnel and technicians. In the opinion of certain repatriates of professional background (doctors, engineers, architects), who were able to move about freely in Albania prior to their repatriation, 3,000 is too high an estimate; these informants would estimate the number of Soviets to be 1,500 minimum and 2,000 maximum. This number would include those Soviet technicians and officers who had recently arrived in Albania to replace the Italian technicians repatriated early in December.

16. Certain of the Italian repatriates who had worked on the maintenance of Albanian artillery, confirmed that all the heavy arms in the possession of the Albanian armed forces at the time of the Armistice in 1943, and later since April 1948, have been replaced by Soviet arms. The arms replaced (of Italian, German and allied manufacture) have been stored in warehouses. According to these Italian technicians, the quality of the Soviet arms is not of the highest caliber; replacement was principally effected because of the worn condition of the previous equipment, lack of replacement parts, and particularly lack of ammunition.

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17. [REDACTED] the present number of Albanian armored vehicles amounts to more than 100, broken down as follows:

- a. 20 heavy tanks, 35-40 tons, armed by an 85 mm. cannon.
- b. 50 medium tanks, 30 tons, 76 mm. ZIS cannon.
- c. 50-60 armored cars.

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[REDACTED] reported that, on the occasion of the Albanian Army Day Parade of 10 July 1949, 20 heavy and 20 light tanks, as well as 40 armored cars, were passed in review.*

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18. [REDACTED] it is probable but not confirmed that the zone of Krienero will be cleared of civilians in order to establish a military zone.** Two former Italian hospital buildings will be refitted and adapted as barracks. In this connection [REDACTED] reported that a joint Soviet and Albanian mission had come to Vlone on 3 December; this mission was reportedly composed of the Albanian Artillery Inspector Major General Gjin Marku, three Soviets (a Colonel, a Major, and a Captain), and two Albanian Colonels. [REDACTED] cautions that this information is not certain, as the mission may have been in Vlone in connection with the training of recent Albanian Army recruits, or in connection with the concentration of Albanian armed units in the Ducat region, because of the fear of parachute drops in that area.

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Comment: This might explain the recent report of unknown origin that the port of Vlone has been declared a prohibited area; so far this report has not been further substantiated.

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